

species in the preparation of the ionic-organic hybrid. This is clearly evidenced in Examples 1-6 of the present application. In particular, Examples 2a, 2b, 2c, 4 and 6, at pages 28-33 of the specification of the present application, in which a mixture of ionic organic species (melamine hydrochloride and melamine cyanurate hydrochloride) and neutral organic species (e.g. melamine) lead to an increase into intergallery layer distance (specifically 1.39 nm in Example 2a, 1.4 nm in Example 2b, 1.4nm in Example 2c, 1.53 nm in Example 4 and 1.33 nm in Example 6) as compared to use of an ionic organic species alone in Example 1 (which gave an intergallery layer distance of 1.27 nm).

Furthermore, Example 15 on page 55 of the application evidences the superior fire performance of nylon 12 formulations containing the inorganic-organic hybrids of the present invention (incorporating both ionic and neutral organic species as set out in Examples 2 and 4) compared with an ionic-organic hybrid comprising an ionic-organic species alone (as set out in Example 1). In particular, Example 15 discloses that formulations 12, 46 and 47 according to the present invention (see Tables 4a and 5f) exhibited vertical burn times of 3, 2 and 5 seconds respectively as compared to 12 and 22 seconds for formulations 45 and 44 (see Table 4f) respectively which incorporate an ionic organic species (melamine hydrochloride) according to Example 1.

Respectfully submitted,



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